



# The Blurb



*Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club  
Public Service Since 1949*

Volume 55 Number 1

<http://www.phil-mont.org>

January 2005

## 9th Annual PMRC Auctionfest

January 12, 2005

7 pm

The Masonic Village  
801 Ridge Pike  
Lafayette Hill, PA

And ya still don't  
haveta buy  
anything



Not a traditional hamfest, but an indoor auction of amateur radio equipment and ham-related computer gear, will be offered to the highest bidder. (Sellers may set a "minimum", or starting bid.) There are no tables for rent, and no outside vendors. Admission is free, and all are invited to attend. However, Sellers (only) pay the club a \$2 registration fee, plus a commission of 10% of the selling price (max. of \$30 per item). It's an annual fun event. Bring gear you want to sell, or just come and buy some bargains. We look forward to seeing you there. Talk-In: on W3QV/R. Contact: Richard Moll, W3RM (email: [five9plus@yahoo.com](mailto:five9plus@yahoo.com)) 215-659-4488

### ***In This Issue***

Earthquake, Tsunamis Hit Southern Asia; VU4 DXpedition in Emergency Mode.....	3
Don't forget Kid's Day: January 2 .....	4
From ARRL EPA section news.....	4
Spread The Word.....	5
Scholarship Fund Progress.....	5
Philmont Board Of Directors Meeting December 1 2004.....	5
PMRC December Meeting .....	6
VE Exam Session Statistics .....	6

**The *Blurb*** is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. *Copying and quoting* is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. *Subscriptions* are available to non-members for \$10, addressed to the Treasurer.

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**Labels and mailing:** WB3KOJ & WB3KOH

**In memory of** Sam Kuncevich N3QIE - **Blurb artist 1958-2004**

**Submissions deadline:** all copy must be in the hands of the Editors by the 20th of the previous month.

### **Sunday Morning Net Schedules**

- 2 Meter/ 70cm Net** .....at 09:30et on W3QV repeater
- 10-on-10 Net** .....at 10:00et 28.393 MHz USB ( $\pm$ QRM)
- 75 meter Net** .....at 10:20et 3.993 MHz LSB

### **License Examinations**

are held on the **first non-holiday Thursday** each month (except July and August) at  
**Northeast High School,**

#### **Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia PA**

Registration begins at 6:00 P.M. Enter through the SPARC wing. Exams begin and doors closed and locked at **6:30 P.M.**

**Sharp!** Applicants should call Dusty ND3Q at 215-879-0505 (day) or 215 482 0386 (eve) for the latest information.

### **Contact Phil-mont:**

**P.O. Box 88**

**Abington, PA 19001**

**<http://www.phil-mont.org>**

webmistress Maggie K3XS k3xs@arrl.net

**For club information:** contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes, and articles that are for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: [wb3koj@comcast.net](mailto:wb3koj@comcast.net)

**The club meets** at 7:30 PM on the **second non-holiday Wednesday** of every month except July and August at  
**The Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill**

801 Ridge Pike

Lafayette Hill, PA

19444-1799

**All visitors are welcome!**

### **Club Stations**

#### **W3QV Club Repeater - Trustee: W3BBB**

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA

147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz  $\triangle$  444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

Reach us on Echolink through WU3I-L

#### **W3AA at Northeast High School -Trustee: WU3I**

Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia, PA

#### **W3EM - Field Day/special event station Trustee: W3VVS**

#### **President: W3STW**

Al Tribble  
2848 Carter Rd.  
Trevose PA 19053  
wstw@juno.com

#### **Vice President: W3AOK**

Bill Popovic  
343 Lemonte St  
Philadelphia PA 19128  
bill.popovic@verizon.net

#### **Secretary: N3YXZ**

Eric Marano  
2382 Schlosser Rd  
Harleysville PA 19438  
guitar047@yahoo.com

#### **Treasurer: W3RM**

Richard A. Moll  
[roger.mike@verizon.net](mailto:roger.mike@verizon.net)  
**Asst. Treasurer: N3MT**  
Micheal P. Taraborrelli  
[mtarab01@villanova.edu](mailto:mtarab01@villanova.edu)

**Directors:** KB3IV(06), K3XS(06), KB3JCR(06), W3BBB(05), N3MT (05), N3XKE (05), WU3I (A)

#### **Committees**

Archives: NG3P  
Audit: NS3K  
Awards: open

Blurb folding:  
WB3KOJ & WB3KOH  
Directory: WB3KOJ  
DX: N3MT  
Emerg. Coor.: K3HWE  
Field Day: KE3QB

Internet: K3XS  
Membership: W3LEN  
Net Control: KB3IV  
Publicity: W3RM  
Program: Club VP

Public Service: open  
Refreshments: W3AOK  
Repeater: W3BBB  
Skywarn: WX3PHI  
Sunshine: N3GLU  
Youth: N3MT

TVI: W3VVS  
VE Program: ND3Q  
W3AA Trustee: WU3I  
Welcome: K3CJ.

## **Earthquake, Tsunamis Hit South- ern Asia; VU4 DXpe- dition in Emergency Mode**

Via ARRL NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 26, 2004--A magnitude 8.9 earthquake struck off the coast of the northern Indonesian island of Sumatra just before 0100 UTC today, killing or injuring many thousands and causing widespread damage.

The disaster also has shut down the Andaman and Nicobar Islands VU4RBI/VU4NRO DXpedition--perhaps permanently. The team appears to have shifted into emergency mode, since one of the stations was reported on the air earlier today using battery power to maintain communication with India. The earthquake, multiple aftershocks and tidal waves--tsunamis--of 30 feet or higher following the initial quake subsequently jolted the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The US Geological Survey's [National Earthquake Information Center](#) reports aftershocks between 5.7 and 7.3 on the Richter scale in the vicinity of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which are closer to the earthquake's epicenter than the Indian mainland.

"All of us here in the US are watching the unfolding news of the earthquake and tsunamis with shock and horror," ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, messaged Charly Harpole, K4VUD/VU3CHE, who has been visiting the VU4 DXpedition. Sumner asked Harpole to relay word "that all of you, and friends and families affected by the tragedy,

are foremost in our thoughts and prayers." It's not known if Sumner's e-mail got through. Harpole has been filing regular e-mail dispatches via [The Daily DX](#).

Unconfirmed DX spots from stations hearing VU4NRO or VU4RBI after the earthquake indicate that the five team members of the [National Institute of Amateur Radio](#)-sponsored DXpedition are okay. DX spots further indicated that power in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was knocked out by the earthquake, which occurred at around 6:30 AM local time, and the consequent tsunamis. The VU4RBI/VU4NRO team was reported on the air running 20 W from battery power, working back to India and likely passing emergency traffic--although that has not been confirmed. The DXpedition had been scheduled to conclude operations December 31.

An *IndiaNews* report called the destruction in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands "unprecedented, with the gigantic tidal waves sinking two civilian ships and destroying dry docks."

Hardest hit were Indonesia, southeastern India and Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon). Estimates vary, but the natural disaster reportedly has claimed upward of 7000 lives, and the death toll continues to rise. It is the height of the tourist season in that part of the world, and many tourists were believed to have been among the earthquake's victims.

The DXpedition is headquartered in Port Blair on Andaman. News reports earlier today said that at least 20 people were killed and

more than 100 injured in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. There was no prior warning of the disaster, and an unknown number of people among the islands' fishing crews at sea were reported missing. Many buildings and the main jetty at Port Blair were said to have been severely damaged. The airport, while damaged, was reopened and operating, and *IndiaNews* said the Indian Air Force had already sent three transports carrying relief supplies to the remote islands. Flights to evacuate tourists were pending.

Damage to the Port Blair jetty was hampering relief and rescue efforts by sea, according to Indian news media. Additional details were not available.

According to one news account, panic-stricken citizens of Port Blair ran out of their houses as the earthquake rocked the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Residents were being advised to stay outdoors. The tidal wave caused some flooding in the city.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are in a part of the world that makes them extremely vulnerable to major earthquakes as well as to tsunamis from large local quakes and from massive distant shocks such as today's. No warning system is presently in place for any of the islands of the chain. A major earthquake in 1941 caused extensive damage in Port Blair, destroying many of its major buildings.

Today's earthquake off Sumatra is being called the fifth largest in history.

## Don't forget Kid's Day: January 2

**Purpose:** Kid's Day is intended to encourage young people (licensed or not) to enjoy Amateur Radio. It can give young people hands-on on-the-air experience so they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future. It is intended to give hams a chance to share their station with their children.

**Dates:** January 2 and June 18 2005. 1800 to 2400Z. No limit on operating time.

**Suggested exchange:** Name, age, location and favorite color. You are encouraged to work the same station again if an operator has changed. Call "CQ Kid's Day."

**Suggested Frequencies:** 28350 to 28400 kHz, 21380 to 21400, 14270 to 14300 kHz and 2-meter repeater frequencies with permission from your area repeater sponsor. Observe third party traffic restrictions when making DX QSOs.

**Reporting:** Logs and comments may be posted on the Internet. Those without Internet access may forward comments to the Boring Amateur Radio Club (address below).

**Awards:** All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate (it becomes the child's personalized sales brochure on ham radio). You can download this certificate for free, customized with the kids' names, after filling out our [Kid's Day Survey](#), or send a 9 X 12 SASE to: Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357; Boring, OR 97009

To coincide with ARRL's Kid's

Day, AMSAT-NA will sponsor its own event for youngsters on the Echo satellite (AO-51) from approximately 1600 UTC on January 2 until 0345 UTC on January 3. AMSAT asks for the cooperation of all satellite users in using the window as a way to promote satellite operation with kids and to limit contacts to stations operating with youngsters at the microphone. Note the change in uplink frequency for the event to 145.880 MHz FM voice, 67 Hz tone; downlink is 435.300 MHz FM voice.

## From ARRL EPA section news

### Lancaster County case of RFI helps underscore the need for Amateurs to enlist in ARRL Field Appointments.

First of all I would like to congratulate James (Yogi) Bear, WB3FQY and Max Peters, KI6NJ for their outstanding handling of this request. Due to Yogi and Max's willingness to assist a very satisfactory outcome was realized. The initial request came from an individual (Mr. X) in Lancaster County who stated that he was experiencing some RFI to his extensive electronic equipment from his next-door neighbor who is a Ham (Mr. Y). Mr. X went on to explain that he had approached his neighbor (Mr. Y) and asked for some cooperation in rectifying the problem. The Ham, thinking that there could not be anything wrong in the setup of his excellent station, did what quite a few of us may do. He did not give Mr. X very much co-

operation. The frustrated RFI sufferer turned to the ARRL EPA Section Manager to try to find some assistance.

After receiving the request for assistance WB3FPL passed the request to the EPA Section Technical Coordinator, Larry Thomas, AA3PX. Checking his personnel list for a Technical Specialist (TS) in the Lancaster County area, AA3PX quickly realized that there were none. AA3PX soon became very frustrated over not being able to get a TS who was reasonably close to the area. At this point I turned to the ARRL Emergency Coordinator (EC) for Lancaster County, Yogi, WB3FQY. Yogi agreed to check into the problem. After a few trips to the residences of Mr. X and Mr. Y, WB3FQY & KI6NJ were able to correct the problem by simply relocating the 40-meter dipole.

As simple as this example seems it definitely points out that there is always a need for Amateur Radio operators to be involved in more aspects of this great hobby. It is my opinion that every Amateur Radio Club should have a Public Information Officer (PIO) and at least one, preferably a team, of TS'. Even if a club is not particularly interested in having one or more of these Field Appointees as part of the club individuals are encouraged to pick an area of interest and obtain an ARRL Field Appointment from the Section Manager.

Again, many thanks to Yogi and Max for an outstanding effort. -- 73, WB3FPL

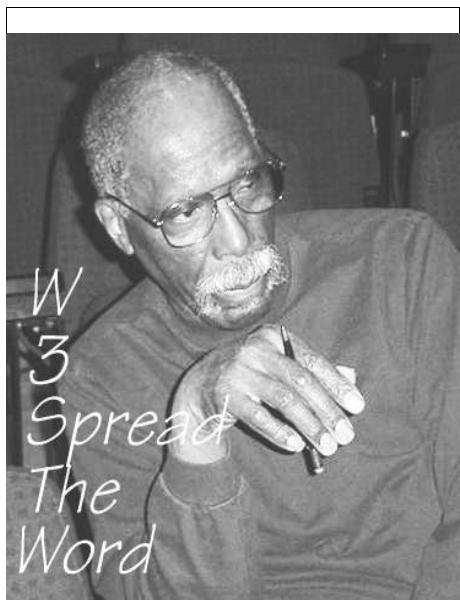


photo: WA3KIO

## Spread The Word

--de Al W3STW, PMRC President

Now that I've been reelected I'm trying to justify the time I will spend away from my family working on Club issues. Then I reflect on the tremendous effort expended by other Club members that keep this Club functioning like a well-oiled machine.

What in the world would I do without the team that gets me my copy of the "Blurb"? I've not missed a copy since joining the Club. And Oh how I enjoy the W3QV Repeater when I'm out and about walking or driving, it takes a licking but W3QV keeps on ticking.

The Board of Directors meetings, I'm up the proverbial creek without the means of proper motivation without their wisdom, the annual Auctionfest, I hope I never have to run it.

The Club's Public Service participation, Field Day and the folks that see to it that I have a decent place to meet with my fellow Club members and guests.

I realize that I'm not the only one dedicated to the duties and obligations of the radio amateurs to our country, its government and its people, to further and to increase our enjoyment and proficiency in the hobby of our choosing, and to promote, nurture and to create good fellowship among and between amateur radio operators, we associate ourselves for the purpose of forming a Club for those amateur radio enthusiasts interested in radio operation.

## Scholarship Fund Progress

Additional cash contributions to fund the 2005 Haring Memorial Scholarship totaled only \$100 since last month's Blurb report, still short of S-7 on our campaign S-Meter. But the good news is that the Scholarship Fund has received a generous donation of Icom equipment, which will be offered for sale at the upcoming Auction-Fest on January 12.

At the December general meeting, Red MacKenzie, W3RED, donated an Icom IC-746 HF/VHF

Transceiver and an Icom AH-4 Automatic Antenna Tuner, both pieces in brand new, never used, still-in-the-box condition! In making this contribution toward the club's Haring Scholarship, Red remarked that he decided to donate this equipment in the hope that his gift might inspire others to do likewise with saleable ham gear they're not putting to good use.

Phil-Mont's Claude H. Haring, Jr., W3IIM, Memorial Scholarship, administered for the club by the Foundation for Amateur Radio, provides an annual \$2,000 scholarship grant to a young licensed ham who is pursuing a higher education. For information about making a tax deductible equipment contribution to the fund, contact Dick, W3RM. Cash contributions, payable to the "PMRC Scholarship Fund," can be mailed to W3RM, P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001.

## Philmont Board Of Directors Meeting December 1 2004

Attending the meeting were Al W3STW, Dick W3RM, Ed KB3IV, Jim W3BBB, Elaine XYL W3BBB, Steve WU3I, Maggie K3XS, and Fred WA3KIO.

Al opened the meeting at 7:57PM. Dick W3RM gave the treasurer's report. Things were about even with last month. The board accepted the report.

Maggie K3XS reported on the Blurb. A discussion was held on how things would continue with Sam N3QIE's passing. It was agreed to remember Sam in the

Blurb masthead.

Dick W3RM reported that with enough candidates running, there would be no need for a Judge of Elections, the only thing needed would be a vote from the secretary.

Steve WU3I reported on W3AA and the tower. It was reported that the tower could be installed later in the semester once a contract bid is taken.

Jim W3BBB reported that everything is ready for the Delaware County site. The site will need to be surveyed.

Ed KB3IV reported that the nets are running fine. He suggested he might change the net preamble for the HF nets. Steve also agreed to speak about Echolink at the upcoming meeting.

New business: Jim W3BBB made a motion that Philmont make contribution to the USS Battleship New Jersey in memory of Sam Kuncevich, N3QIE. It was approved unanimously.

Dick W3RM brought up the Auctionfest to be held at January's meeting. It was decided to have only one go around due to time constraints.

Steve WU3I made a motion to

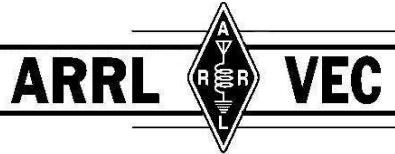
adjourn. Dick W3RM seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

73's de WA3KIO

## PMRC December Meeting

Results of the December '04 election are President: W3STW, Vice President: W3AOK. Treasurer: W3RM, Secretary: N3YXZ (assisted by KB3IV) Board of Directors: K3XS, KB3IV, KB3JCR, WU3I (appointed). See your December '04 Blurb for pictures.

After a lot of heavy of eating and drinking the refreshments presented to the group, by Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club's vice president Bill W3AOK, the December 9, 2004 meeting was called to order at 7:58 P.M. Opening comments by Al W3STW revolved around his interest in the Club and what it means to be a Club member. Perry W3PTB, Gene N3XKE, Jules KB3AFH, Al K3ZMJ, Ra KB3JCR, Red W3RED, Lou WX3I, Eric N3YXZ, Larry W3UY, Ted KB3HAQ, Ed KB3IV, Steve



220th Monthly Phil-Mont

### VE Exam Session Statistics

for December 4, 2004

One candidate took two elements, and we had one upgrade. The VE team was chaired by Dusty Rhoads **ND3Q**, and the other participating VEs were : Gene Dinardi N3XKE Bob Freer W3YLT

### Upcoming Exam Sessions:

**January 6, 2005**

**February 3, 2005**

**March 3, 2005**

(See page 2 for details)

WU3I, Larry K3HWE, Fred WA3KIO, Gerry W3GER, Mike N3MT, Dick W3RM, Dusty, ND3Q and Bill W3AOK

expressed their interest in the Club and what it means to them to be a Club member also.



photo: NG3P

Al W3STW called for a report from the Treasurer and other committee chairpersons attending the meeting. Club Treasurer, Dick W3RM, reported the Club is still financially sound.

He also reported on the status of the W3I-IM Haring Scholarship fund Club support. Using the amateur radio receiver "S" meter format, as shown in the December '04 Blurb, the Club is at an "S" 6. The goal is "S" 9 and above, the Club needs more donations.

Dick mentioned that a recent donation to the club, a brand new never been used IC 746 Transceiver and Antenna Tuner, will go on the auction block at the January '05 Auctionfest. The proceeds, from the sale of this equipment, on behalf of the Club, will go toward the Fund.

Club Director, WU3I, Steve reported that the donated tower to North East H.S., is still in the horizontal position, but new efforts are being expended to get the tower in a vertical position.

He also reported that if you plan to pay for items purchased at the January '05 Auctionfest by check, make sure you have two checks one for the buyer the other for the Club's administrative fees. There will only one round of bidding, therefore if you see an item you want, bid to



## January Birthdays

02	Marlene Spangler (XYL W3DSS)
03	Jon Verlin - KA3VVU
05	Dorene Weiner (XYL WX3PHI)
06	Ted Mills - N3UP
07	Ray Heffernan - KB3JCR
13	Jon Balch - W3KG
15	Denise Burstein - KB3ANO Karen Lenczynski (XYL KA3EIP)
16	Bill Sullivan - N3QMH
19	Bill Mescanti - K2LK
30	Bill Kane - N3OOL

## Directory Update

With this BLURB you received your 2005 Dues Invoice & Directory Information Sheet. Please verify the information and return it with your dues & optional PMRC SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION to: DICK MOLL P.O. BOX 88 - ABINGTON, PA 19001-0088...Your early reply will save the club additional expenses and will speed-up the publishing of the 2005 P.M.R.C. Directory.

Membership Stats will resume in March.

win. North East will be recognizing the various student clubs, in the near future.

W3AA is looking for help in getting help from the membership to be one of the clubs recognized for its effort in reactivating to the oldest high school amateur radio station, in the country, W3YC.

Dusty ND3Q reported the results of the Club's December '04 licensing session. Licensing details for the year (and years past) are documented in Steve's WU3I, annual report on that activity.

According to Ed KB3IV the Club net activity is doing well. Volunteers for the various nets are welcome.

Blurb editor, Maggie K3XS reports all is well and said because Sam N3QIE is a Silent Key, his front cover art work will be missed.

Dick W3RM performed the details of the election process. Without opposition to the Candidates running for Office and Director, the Secretary cast a vote from the in the affirmative, thereby electing all the Candidates running for Office and Director for the year 2005.

Bill W3AOK introduced the program speaker for the evening: Steve WU3I. Steve's talk featured the operation of Echo Link through the W3QV repeater. The meeting ended 9:40 P.M.

Date	January 2005 with PMRC
Sat 01	New Year's Day
Sun 02	NCS 2m K3XS – HF W3YXZ
Mon 03	
Tue 04	
Wed 05	PMRC Board Meeting at WRDV
Thu 06	VE Exams at Northeast High School – see p 2
Fri 07	
Sat 08	
Sun 09	NCS 2m WU3I – HF WA3KIO
Mon 10	
Tue 11	
Wed 12	<b>PMRC Auctionfest</b> at Masonic Village
Thu 13	
Fri 14	
Sat 15	
Sun 16	NCS 2m KB3IV – HF KB3IV
Mon 17	Martin Luther King Jr Day
Tue 18	
Wed 19	
Thu 20	Inauguration Day
Fri 21	
Sat 22	
Sun 23	NCS 2M WB3KOJ – HF W3STW
Mon 24	
Tue 25	
Wed 26	
Thu 27	
Fri 28	
Sat 29	
Sun 30	NCS 2M W3BBB – HF W3BBB
Mon 31	

## First Class Mail

641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115  
 The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc

The *Blu*il